UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.85/L.56
17 July 1992

ENGLISH ONLY

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 12 (b) of the provisional agenda*

TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: TRAINING COURSES IN TOPONYMY

Canadian documents for United Nations training courses in toponymy

Paper submitted by Canada**

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by the secretariat of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names.

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1. This collection, or "training kit", of Canadian documents addresses various aspects of geographical names standardization. The papers gathered here provide material on the roles of national toponymic authorities; the process of establishing such an administrative framework, processing toponyms and maintaining records; and particular aspects of historical toponymy and of place-naming in a bilingual context.

2. Originally most of these papers were presented in French at the Stage de formation en toponymie held in Québec, 7-19 August 1988. This course was organized by the Commission de toponymie du Québec, under the auspices of the United Nations and in collaboration with the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. Recommendations formulated by trainees at this training course are also included for the benefit of organizers of similar courses in the years to come.

3. Prior to 1992, five United Nations conferences have been held on the standardization of geographical names. Between conferences, the ongoing work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names facilitates the exchange of information on names standardization between member nations, assists in implementing recommendations of the conferences, and maintains the continuity of vital toponymic activities. Resolutions from the conferences have addressed the need for provision of technical aid, including courses in the development of national standardization programmes. Only by encouraging standardization of geographical names at the national level can progress be made towards international standardization, which is particularly important for production of clear, unambiguous cartographic products.

4. We thank the Commission de toponymie du Québec for agreeing to the translation and dissemination in English of the papers from the 1988 course. It is hoped that the training kit assembled here will in its own small way be a useful reference tool for future courses, workshops, or seminars. May it help others to gain insight into the benefits, aims, and processes of national names standardization, and so contribute to a better understanding between nations.

5. The papers included in the training kit are listed below.

Title	Author
The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	Henri Dorion
A national toponymic authority	Henri Dorion
The mandate and roles of a national names authority	Jean-Paul Drolet
The Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names: an overview of its role and activities	J. Hugh O'Donnell

Title	Author
Overview of the toponymic records maintained by the Secretariat of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names	Jocelyne Revie and Helen Kerfoot
The collection and treatment of names for maritime and undersea features	Thérèse Jolicoeur
The administrative framework of a central toponymic agency	Alain Vallières
Inventory and processing	Alain Vallières
Standards concerning the choice of names to be officialized	Marc Richard
Writing geographical names	Marc Richard
Historical toponymy: part of our national heritage and a cultural asset worth preserving	Cécyle Trépanier
Recommendations for the organization of future training courses	Commission de toponymie du Québec
Place-naming in bilingual speech communities: the Ontario experience	André Lapierre

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